GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1574
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
ADULT ILLITERACY
Kathiria Dr. Vallabhbhai;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illiterate persons and the present illiteracy rate of rural and urban women and men, separately from 2001-02 to 2006-07, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the percentage of adult illiterates living in the country;

(c) the reasons for high illiteracy in the country;

(d) the number of students enrolled in Primary, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Higher Secondary classes during the above period, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to make education for all a reality by 2015?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI)

(a) and (b) : The literacy data in the country is collected only through the decennial census operations. According to the last census held in 2001, the illiteracy rate for the population aged 7+ was 35.16%. A statement showing State-wise, the number of illiterates as also illiteracy rate in rural and urban areas for male and females is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c) : The reasons for illiteracy in the country includes various socio-economic factors like poverty, lack of awareness on the relevance of education, gender disparity, etc. amongst others,

(d) : The information relating to the number of students enrolled at various stages is available for the years 2001-02 to 2004-05. A statement showing State-wise the number of students enrolled at the Primary (Class I-V), Upper Primary (Class VI-VIII), Secondary(Class IX-X) and Higher Secondary(Class XI-XII) classes for the period (2001-02 to 2004-05) is enclosed at Annexure-II.

(e) : The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. The Approach Paper to the XI Plan of the Planning Commission has set a target of achieving 85% literacy rate by the end of the Plan period.